

CHARGES ON THE REVENUE.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

In relation to charges on the Revenue.

FEBRUARY 3, 1835.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 22, 1835.

SIR: In reply to your inquiries of this morning, I have the honor to state that the term "expenses of collection," as used in the documents emanating from this department, embraces all the charges on the "gross revenue" which are immediately connected with its collection.

They include all payments of salaries, &c. to all kinds of custom-house officers beyond the fees received by them; the cost of building, repairing, and manning revenue cutters, and some other small items, making in all, in A. D. 1833, for instance, only the aggregate amount of about \$1,348,626. This, it will be seen, was less than ten per cent. on the sum of about \$15,000,000, or the nett revenue collected for that year.

But the term "charges on the revenue" includes much more than the "expenses of collection;" it embraces all sums, of every kind, which are chargeable to the gross revenue before it is paid into the Treasury. Thus, in 1833, the drawbacks on foreign merchandise re-exported, being by law "charges" on the gross revenue, amounted to more than \$5,000,000. The drawbacks on refined sugar and distilled spirits being also "charges" on the gross revenue, amounted that year to more than \$37,000. The allowances to vessels employed in the fisheries, and the bounties on pickled fish, were paid from the same source, and exceeded \$258,000. The duties refunded under acts of Congress, and otherwise, exceeded \$2,687,000 more; and the expenses attending prosecutions for duties discharged, in the first instance, from the gross revenue, were nearly \$33,000.

Hence, when the "gross revenue" is from twenty to thirty millions of dollars, it often happens that all the "charges" upon it equal from six to eight millions of dollars; but, at the same time of those "charges," the

"expenses of collection" seldom alone exceed one and a half millions, or about ten per cent. on the nett revenue, and much less than that rate on the gross revenue.

Respectfully, yours,

LEVI WOODBURY.

Hon. DUTEE J. PEARCE,

Of the Committee on Commerce.